

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

FOR RNDM
ASSOCIATES
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**RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE - ROME
PROMOTES MISSION THROUGH
COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE
SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS
IN 22 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE**

Covid-19 pandemic has upset the lives of billions of people around the world. It has disrupted everyone's everyday life and people feel frustrated. Millions have lost lives, families and friends. All are looking for an answer. It seems like science and reason have also failed to give hope to the world.

“Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you.”

Pope Francis

Christmas is a time of Love. It is about the goodness and beauty of human life where God wills to get involved in our lives. God is Immanuel - God with us! Love prompts Him to be part and parcel of our lives. Love is the driving force behind all that he does; He is love incarnate.

Christmas is a time of *Hope*. Our God walks with us in our pain and sufferings; encourages, strengthens and supports us. He promises us His presence and He never leaves us alone. He is our beacon of Hope!

The spirit of Christmas is the *spirit of giving* and in giving we receive. During this pandemic we saw the best human beings - selfless service and sacrifice of life on the line of duty; we have seen and heard about real people rising to the occasion to prove their kindness

and compassion. Let this Christmas be a different one for you and me. Let us be a sign of *love, hope and healing* to our world. Let us live Christmas with grateful hearts!



A doctor on night duty, caring for a sick child has fallen asleep with him...

Smitha Thomas RNDM

SUPPORTING TEI WA NGAI CENTRE, KENYA

RNDM Sisters at Tei Wa Ngai Centre acknowledge the support towards food, medical, educational and transportation services for the disabled children and the health workers of Tei Wa Ngai Program. We thank God for allowing us to visit the children during these pandemic times.

This year has been a challenging one since April. In January, we met with our Health Workers and made the annual plan for 2020: home visits of the children, schedule for different outreach clinics to small homes and dispensaries, visits of health workers to Kijabe and Kikuyu clinics and planned for our own meetings for sharing and evaluation.

However due to the pandemic, all plans got changed or cancelled. Outreach clinics, field works and home visits had to be limited and all meetings had to be suspended this time. Thankfully we could continue taking severe clients to CURE hospital for operations and follow up cases. We had to observe the pandemic protocol and get the necessary permission from the civil authorities to protect our children in getting the best services available.



*Jiovanna and Ngan Ha RNDM
Coordinators of TWN Program*

*Merry
Christmas*

CLEAN ENERGY FOR A GREENER WORLD, BANGALORE



Mariam Nilaya Banaswadi compound in Bangalore, South India, includes the Provincialate, Novitiate and a Higher Secondary School. It is the largest community in the province. There are approximately 1300 people in the different buildings. Due to the increasing costs of the electricity bills, we had a dream to install solar panels in order to generate clean power, to avoid electricity interruptions and reduce costs.

Solar energy is a renewable and environmentally friendly energy source, which allows us to generate, harvest electricity and reduce carbon footprints. Solar energy is sustainable and clean. Besides, we are all committed to be good stewards of the Earth's resources and care for our common home, as Pope Francis said in *Laudato Si'*. We want to be responsible citizens and good caretakers of the earth and we believe that it is part of our commitment as humans beings.



We thank our Sisters and benefactors for their generous financial contribution. We sincerely thank all those who have taken this project as a priority and encouraged and supported us to implement it. We continue to celebrate with grateful hearts God's blessings in abundance with the gift of creation and its energy all around us. Let this energy and light be a reminder for us to share the light of Christ at this Christmas season, specially to those who still live in pain and suffering at this time. We assure you of our prayers and the blessings of our Saviour Christ at this unprecedented time of our lives.

Lilly Vas RNDM, Bangalore

THE VALUE OF WOMEN, MYANMAR

Dear Sisters and Benefactors,

Greetings of peace and joy! It is with a grateful heart that I am sharing with you the progress of the project at St. Ann's Self Help Women's group of Shwe Pan Taw Parish, Pyay.

Women are among the poorest and most marginalized people not only here in Myanmar but in many parts of the world. For many years and in various ways, we have been accompanying, guiding and supporting women so that they could gain more self-confidence, to lead and guide their families. Now that our country is in the process of democratization, the women's role is very crucial. Our dream is that they become real Community leaders in the Church and in their society. Most women are poor farmers, growing and harvesting seasonal crops such as sesame, peanuts, beans and peas. However, the weather can be very changeable and affect the miserable harvests.

The role of St. Ann's Women's Association is to make women sustainable through skills training and other social activities. We are happy to note that there is a better understanding of women's role and more collaboration among women themselves. They are offering a very generous service in the parish activities.

A microcredit program teaches them how to make good use of money and benefit from it. With the financial support they receive, they are able to raise pigs, fowls, cows; plow and plant sesame, peanuts, paddy, beans and other seeds.

We thank and pray for all our donors and benefactors. Wishing you every blessing for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year 2021.



Agnes Ma Tin Mi RNDM, Pyay

LENDING HANDS AND REACHING OUT - ROME



Covid-19 pandemic has been a trying time for most people especially the poor and homeless ones. The Caritas service of our Parish, **Natività di Maria** is trying to reach out to the needy people by converting its attitude from *assistance* to *promotion*: we believe that the former does not really free persons from their needs and often makes them dependent on the giver; instead the latter aims to make the persons the protagonists of their own lives through accompaniment of a community that welcomes, integrates, listens, plans WITH and not FOR; guides and helps to obtain what is due as a right and not as alms, together with providing material support. The faces of poverty to which we would like to give an answer in our neighborhood are many and have been increasing since the beginning of the pandemic: job loss, migrants, health reasons, mental distress, loneliness, homelessness, addiction to alcohol, drugs and gambling.

Our Parish Community includes the Generalate community of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. Thanks to their financial support, we began this project. With a first tranche of € 500 we set up two rooms: a smaller one for a Listening Center and a larger one as a warehouse for storage of food aid. A second tranche of € 500 was used to purchase food items during the summer months, a period in which donations from parishioners were almost nil. In recent times, we used the fund to provide medical care that is not guaranteed free of charge by the National Health System or as scholarships for young people from families who would not be able to pay for training courses at work. The whole community of the *Natività di Maria* sincerely thanks the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions and we shall keep them updated on our projects. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year 2021.



Riccardo Callori di Vignale
Coordinator of the Parish Caritas Unit

Empowering Dalits through Education, Bihar-India

Jyothi Bhavan Social Service Center, Kanti - Bihar offers supplementary education to children from the lowest (Dalit) caste of the society. These children are given regular tuition classes for two hours each day focusing on main subjects, so that they can be admitted in the local school and do better in life. Giving them an opportunity for schooling is a dream come true for them. The center also organizes Children's parliament meeting once a week where basic child rights are introduced to them. They discuss about the educational issues faced by them, other topics on child rights, environmental issues and other values related to life. Parents' meetings are held to inform them about the progress of their children and create awareness about the parents' rights and duties. They are also given information about various schemes which are available from the government for them and their children.

During the Covid-19 lockdown period, the children were given awareness programmes on Covid -19. They made captions and placards and posted them in public places to be seen by all. When movements were restricted, the Sisters gave guidance by mobile and radio so that the students could follow instructions and study at home. It was wonderful to see that no children were roaming around, but are enrolled in government schools. Parents have taken responsibility and shown interest in sending them to the schools. There are visible changes on the part of parents and children. We believe that there is a ripple effect in the lives of the villagers and we can hope for a better tomorrow for them.



Thank You!



We appreciate your valuable support and acknowledge that it is not possible for us to reach out to these less fortunate children without your assistance. God bless you!

Suja Sebastian RNDM, Kanti

CARING SERVICE AT COVID CENTER, BIJAPUR KARNATAKA - SOUTH INDIA

As the Covid cases were escalating rapidly it became an urgent need to launch an emergency Care center in Bijapur city where the cases were increasing steadily and the people were beginning to panic. This center could cater to the needs of the people of the peripheries who are deprived of such facilities when they are faced with awful situations like the attack of Coronavirus. When I received the request from the Mission Director of Bijapur Fr. Antony Dass SJ, for financial assistance to put up the above mentioned center, I was in a dilemma thinking where to turn for help to respond to this urgent request. I approached IMDO office, and forwarded the request. I was soon assured that our sisters could contribute towards beds needed for the center. I believe that God hears the cry of the poor!

It is with great joy, and gratitude I share that, we have furnished the six bed Covid Care Center which is named Saint Joseph's Isolation ward. We have all the necessary lab equipment such as: MISPA-i2 (HIV & Covid testing Machine), Oxygen Cylinders and PPE kits. We also furnished the center with six full fowler beds. We converted an old hall with new facelift into an isolation center. It was inaugurated in October with a blessing and many are making good use of the lab. This lab is registered under the lab association of Bijapur. Those who come for the testing are charged with minimum cost, so as to maintain the lab and pay the staff.



This Covid Care Center is also used for all clergy and religious when they show early symptoms for Covid-19. We will make these facilities available to our target groups such as slum dwellers, devadasi women, transgender, widows, poor farmers and migrant workers.

It was a dream realized because of the many generous donors. We appreciate the support of IMDO office, Rome. We keep you in our prayers. Please continue your kind cooperation and collaborations to build the Kingdom of God in this part of Karnataka.

*Vinitha Kurian RNDM
India South Province*



We, at the RNDM IMDO are ever grateful to all our Sisters across the Congregation, friends, mission partners and all our benefactors for your collaboration and generous support to our needy missions throughout this year. Your support to the Christmas Catalogue, Solidarity and other projects has transformed the lives of many people, who otherwise would not have had a chance in their lives. God bless and reward you abundantly always!

We wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas and New Year filled with joy, peace and love!



RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, ROME

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